

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 02780 210938Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /123 W
-----211108Z 121548 /10

R 210910Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1969
INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2780

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS MO
SUBJECT: LOS: MOROCCO

1. DURING MAY 19 TOUR D'HORIZON WITH EMBASSY LOS OFFICER, MFA
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND TREATIES DIVISION CHIEF MUSTAPHA GHARBI GAVE
HIS VIEWS ON A VARIETY OF LOS-RELATED TOPICS. GHARBI HEADS
GOM'S LOS DELEGATION, AND EMBOFF'S MEETING ON EVE OF NEW YORK
MEETING FOLLOWED ON LOS CONVERSATIONS HERE WITH SENIOR SOVIET
ENVOY.

2. SOVIETS DISCUSS LOS: SOVIET ENVOY, ALEXEI SHVEDOV,
ARRIVED IN RABAT MAY 8 FOLLOWING SWING THROUGH MAGHREB COUNTRIES ON
OSTENSIBLE MISSION OF DISCUSSION LOS MATTERS (SEPTTEL). GHARBI
JOKINGLY REMARKED THAT SOVIET POSITION "VERY MUCH LIKE" U.S.'S
AND THAT "U.S. NEED NOT WORRY." HE NOTED THAT SHVEDOV HAD
BEEN THROUGH TWO YEARS AGO TO DISCUSS LOS, THE U.S. LOS DELEGATION
HAD VISITED MOROCCO IN THE INTERIM (76 LONDON 09638 NOTAL)
AND THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE "PERFECTLY NORMAL". ONLY DETAIL
CONVEYED WAS THAT SOVIETS TENDED TO VIEW SEABED AUTHORITY
AS ONLY BEING "REGISTRY" FOR NATIONS WANTING TO MINE SEABEDS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 02780 210938Z

HE ALSO SAID SOVIETS UNHAPPY WITH U.S. PROPOSAL TO STANDARDIZE
SHIPBOARD COMMUNICATIONS, A PROPOSAL WHICH SOVIETS FELT WAS
DESIGNED TO REQUIRE THAT U.S. EQUIPMENT BE ABOARD ALL SHIPS
AT SEA.

3. PROGRESS TO DATE: IN GENERAL, GHARBI PRONOUNCED HIMSELF
SATISFIED WITH PROGRESS OF LOS CONFERENCE TO DATE, SAYING

THAT TALKS HAD ADVANCED SINCE THIS TIME LAST YEAR.
HE CONJECTURED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A FINAL TREATY BY 1980.

4. SEABEDS: ON U.S. POSITIONS, GHARBI TERMED "DISTURBING"
PENDING U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT DEEP
SEABED MINING PRACTICES. HE PREDICTED THAT SUCH A MOVE BY
THE CONGRESS WOULD "BREAK UP" THE CONFERENCE. A LONG LECTURE
ENSUED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF DEEP SEABED RESOURCES AS
MAN'S COMMON HERITAGE.

5. ECONOMIC ZONE. MOROCCO WAS IN NO HURRY TO DECLARE A 200
MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS CAREFULLY WATCHING SPAIN,
WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD WAS "CONTEMPLATING" SUCH A MOVE. HE
CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR ITS "PREMATURE" DECLARATION OF 200
MILE-LIMIT. THE GOM PREFERRED TO AWAIT RESOLUTION OF THE
QUESTION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE LOS TALKS. AS IN THE PAST,
ITS PARTICULAR CONCERN IN THIS RESPECT WAS THE RESOLUTION OF
THE QUESTION AS AFFECTED BY THE CANARIES.

6. STRAITS. GHARBI NOTED THAT THE GOM AND MALAYSIA HAD BEEN
"RELATIVELY QUIET" ON THE STRAITS QUESTION IN THE LAST LOS
SESSION. IN GENERAL, THE GOM WAS SATISFIED WITH THE DRAFT SNT
BUT WOULD ARGUE IN THE NEXT SESSION FOR "UNFOLDING" CERTAIN IDEAS
AND "EXPLAINING" THEM, NAMELY IN THE AREA OF THE "BEHAVIOR" OF
VESSELS PASSING THROUGH THE STRAITS. HE ALSO MAINTAINED THAT THE
GOM WOULD REQUIRE A SEPARATE, COMPARISON AGREEMENT WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES COVERING THE "FACILITIES" WHICH IT WOULD INSTALL TO
MONITOR THE STRAITS FOR SAFETY, TRAFFIC FLOW, AND POLLUTION
CONTROL PURPOSES, AS STIPULATED IN ARTICLE 41 OF THE SNT.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RABAT 02780 210938Z

7. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE PERSIAN GULF AND
RED SEA (STATE 073110), GHARBI ADMITTED THAT THE ARABS HAD
PROBLEMS WITH THE CURRENT SNT. HE SAID RATHER VAGUELY THAT THE
GOM SUPPORTED THE "IRAQI PROPOSAL" ON THE GULF. THE MAIN
CURRENT CONCERN OF THE ARABS, HOWEVER, WAS ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF
A NUMBER OF UNINHABITED ISLANDS IN THE RED SEA, WHICH COULD
IMPACT ON THE ARAB STRAITS POSITION IN THE LOS TALKS. HE
SEEMED TO HINT THAT DISSENSION ON THIS POINT COULD UNTRACK THE
ENTIRE ACCORD REACHED SO FAR ON THE STRAITS TEXT, AT LEAST
INSOFAR AS THE ARABS WERE CONCERNED.

8. GHARBI SAID HE WOULD NOT BE LEAVING FOR NEW YORK UNTIL
MID-JUNE. THE GOM REP AT THE EARLY SESSIONS WOULD BE PROFESSOR
MOHAMED BENNANI, DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL AT CASABLANCA.

9. COMMENT: GHARBI OFTEN EXAGGERATES CERTAIN POINTS IN INFORMAL
LOS DISCUSSIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE US POLICY ON OTHER
ISSUES. WE JUDGE THAT HIS COMMENTS ON THE RED SEA FALL IN THIS

CATEGORY.

ANDERSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RABAT02780
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770181-1143
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770532/aaaabben.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d0ebc58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2423144
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: MOROCCO
TAGS: PLOS, MO, (GHARBI, MUSTAPHA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d0ebc58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009